

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE AWARD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL

Pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Executive Order , the following regulations are hereby issued to govern the award of the National Security Medal:

1. The National Security Medal may be awarded to any person without regard to nationality, including a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who, on or after 26 July 1947, has made an outstanding contribution to the National intelligence effort. This contribution may consist of either exceptionally meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility or of an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personal safety.
2. The National Security Medal with accompanying ribbon and appurtenances, shall be of appropriate design to be approved by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.
3. The National Security Medal shall be awarded only by the President or his designee for that purpose.
4. Recommendations may be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council by any individual having personal knowledge of the facts of the exceptionally meritorious conduct or act of valor of the candidate in the performance of outstanding services, either as an eyewitness or from the testimony of others who have personal knowledge or were eyewitnesses. Any recommendations shall be accompanied by complete documentation, including where necessary, certificates, affidavits or sworn transcripts of testimony. Each recommendation for an award shall show the exact status, at the time of the rendition of the service on which the recommendation is based, with respect to citizenship, employment, and all other material factors, of the person who is being recommended for the National Security Medal.
5. Each recommendation shall contain a draft of an appropriate citation to accompany the award of the National Security Medal.

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THE NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL

The early historical records of our country show recognition of the vital importance of obtaining accurate intelligence for guidance on matters of national interest. In this connection General George Washington in a letter to Colonel Elias Dayton, dated July 26, 1777, stated "The necessity of procuring good intelligence is apparent and need not be further urged." A General Order issued August 7, 1782 at the headquarters of the Continental Army, Newburgh, New York provided that badges of distinction be conferred on veteran non-commissioned officers and soldiers and provision for the award known as the Badge of Military Merit or the Decoration of the Purple Heart was made by the following language:

"The General ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military merit directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or finding.

"The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war and to be considered as a permanent one"

The first two Purple Heart awards were for valor in battle. The third Purple Heart rewarded a very different kind of service, performed by Sergeant Daniel Bissell through many months, inconspicuously and in secret. In this connection under General Orders of the Continental Army for Sunday, June 8, 1783, there is the following paragraph:

"Serjeant Bissel of the 2^d Connecticut reg^t having performed some important services, within the immediate knowledge of the Commander in chief, in which the fidelity, perseverance, and good sense of the said serjeant Bissel were conspicuously manifested; it is therefore ordered that he be honored with the badge of Merit, he will call at Headquarters on tuesday next for the insignia and certificate to which he is hereby entitled."

The citation begins by stating:

"It hath ever been an established maxim in the American Service that the Road to Glory was open to all."

It has been stated that the road of Daniel Bissell led through extremes of peril, self-sacrifice and the shadows of disgrace.

The award of the Purple Heart was discontinued, however, and when subsequently revived was used as an award for the recognition of wounds received in action against the enemy.

Despite the early recognition in our country's history of the importance of intelligence there has never, until this time been created a decoration solely to reward outstanding performance in the field of intelligence.

It is for this purpose, then that the National Security Medal has been created - to honor service in a field of vital importance to the nation and one in which proper recognition has heretofore been lacking.